

0.a. Goal

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

0.b. Target

Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

0.c. Indicator

Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

0.e. Metadata update

February 2021

0.f. Related indicators

Achieving this target will positively impact multiple SDG goals and by reaching other goals will improve countries ability to reduce new HIV infections. The goals that are linked to HIV include goals 1 through 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

1.a. Organisation

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

2.a. Definition and concepts

Definition:

The number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations as defined as the number of new HIV infections per 1000 person-years among the uninfected population.

2.b. Unit of measure

Number of people per 1000.

2.c. Classifications

Not applicable

3.a. Data sources

Spectrum modelling is used for the data presented here. Alternative methods of measures include household or key population surveys with HIV incidence-testing, or routine surveillance among key populations.

3.b. Data collection method

Country teams use UNAIDS-supported Spectrum software to develop estimates annually. The country teams are comprised primarily of epidemiologists, demographers, monitoring and evaluation specialists and technical partners.

The UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections provides technical guidance on the development of the HIV component of the Spectrum software (www.epidem.org). The Spectrum software is developed by Avenir Health (www.avenirhealth.org)—which includes a module, the Estimates and Projections Package, which is developed by the East-West Center (www.eastwestcenter.org).

3.c. Data collection calendar

Data sources are compiled all year long. The spectrum models are created in the first three months of every year and finalized by May.

3.d. Data release calendar

Data are released every year in July

3.e. Data providers

The estimates are produced by team of national experts consisting of ministry of health, national AIDS advisory groups and development partners. The results are signed off on by senior managers at the ministries of health.

3.f. Data compilers

After the data review process the national experts share their results with UNAIDS who compiles the data for all countries and calculates regional and global estimates.

3.g. Institutional mandate

The UN Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS (from 2001, 2011, and 2016) have mandated for UNAIDS to support countries to produce these data and for UNAIDS to report on the status of the Global HIV epidemic annually as well as through the UN Secretary General.

4.a. Rationale

The incidence rate provides a measure of progress toward preventing onward transmission of HIV. Although other indicators are also very important to the HIV epidemic, HIV incidence reflects success in prevention programmes and, to some extent, successful treatment programmes, as those will also lead to lower HIV incidence.

4.b. Comment and limitations

The methods and limitations for estimating HIV incidence vary based on the data and surveillance systems available in countries.

- Countries with high HIV prevalence in the general population have relatively strong surveillance systems with household surveys contributing to the information required to estimate incidence. In epidemics concentrated in key populations, the surveillance systems for key hard-to-reach populations are often not comparable over time due to changing survey and sampling methods. The estimated size of key populations, a critical input to the Spectrum model for concentrated epidemics, can also lead to important under or over estimation of HIV epidemics in concentrated epidemics.
- In many countries trends in recent new infections rely on prevalence data from routine antenatal clinic testing. If those data are biased because women with known positive HIV status are not captured when calculating prevalence, or women found to be negative at initial ANC visit are retested later in the pregnancy, the derived incidence trends might be biased. While some limitations of the models are reflected in the uncertainty bounds the measurement biases and the uncertainty caused by these biases are not easily quantified and are thus not included.
- Although HIV prevalence and incidence among children appears to be reasonably robust in generalized epidemics, estimating the pediatric HIV epidemic in concentrated epidemics remains a challenge because no robust measures exist of fertility among key populations living with HIV.
- Currently UNAIDS only supports the HIV estimates development in countries with populations greater than 250,000. This is primarily due to support capacity.

4.c. Method of computation

Longitudinal data on individuals newly infected with HIV would be the most accurate source of data but are rarely available for representative populations. Special diagnostic tests in surveys or from health facilities can also be used to obtain data on HIV incidence but these require very large samples to accurately estimate HIV incidence and the latter are also rarely representative. HIV incidence is thus modelled using the Spectrum software

4.d. Validation

The HIV incidence estimates are created by country teams and are signed off on by ministry of health managers, including a clear statement that these data will be provided for SDG reporting. The SDG focal point in country is copied on the requests for clearance. UNAIDS then reviews the input data and results to ensure quality.

4.e. Adjustments

No adjustments are made to the estimates.

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

- At country level:

Estimates are not collected from countries with populations < 250,000. In addition no estimates are available for 10 countries with very small HIV epidemics who do not produce estimates.

For some countries the estimates were not finalized at the time of publication. The country specific values are not presented for these countries.

- At regional and global levels:

The countries with populations < 250,000 and the 10 countries that do not produce estimates are not included in regional or global level estimates. For countries in which the estimates were not finalized at the time of publication, the unofficial best estimates are included in the regional and global values.

4.g. Regional aggregations

Available for the World, the SDG regional groupings, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

A description of the methodology is available at:

Countries are provided with capacity building workshops every year on the methods. In addition, they are supported by in country specialists in roughly 45 countries. Where no in country specialists are available, remote assistance is provided. Guidelines are also available at: HIVtools.unaids.org

4.i. Quality management

Development of methods is overseen by an external reference group of estimates. The actual files are reviewed by UNAIDS global experts to ensure consistency between countries.

4.j. Quality assurance

Countries are fully involved in the development of the estimates. The final values are reviewed for quality by UNAIDS and approved by senior managers at national Ministries of Health.

4.k. Quality assessment

Results are routinely compared to empirical evidence when available. These empirical data include research studies, household surveys with incidence measurement, and longitudinal HIV surveillance sites when available. If inconsistencies are found modifications are considered for the models. Most recently a study looking at incidence in sub-Saharan Africa have found correspondence.

5. Data availability and disaggregation

Data availability:

170 countries in 2020. Data are available by age and sex, however there are methodological challenges in estimating incidence among key populations

Time series:

2000-2019

Disaggregation:

General population, Age groups (0-14, 15-24, 15-49, 50+ years, All ages), sex (male, female, both)
Key population data are currently not available as methods are being developed.

6. Comparability/deviation from international standards

Sources of discrepancies:

These variations will differ by country.

7. References and Documentation

URL:

unaids.org

References:

More information on the estimates process

<http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/datatools/spectrum-epp>

Tools and tutorial videos on the methods

<https://hivtools.unaids.org/>

Journal Supplement on methods:

<https://journals.lww.com/aidsonline/toc/2019/12153>

UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring

<https://www.unaids.org/en/global-aids-monitoring>

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2016/2016-political-declaration-HIV-AIDS>

UNAIDS website for access to data

<http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>

UNAIDS website for downloading files used to create incidence estimates

<https://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/datatools/spectrum-epp>

Consolidated Strategic Information Guidelines for HIV in the Health Sector. Geneva: World Health Organization; <https://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/en/>